

## W. W. Cox, Pioneer New Mexico Ranch Owner, Passes Away

W. W. Cox, aged 69 years, pioneer citizen of Dona Ana county, N. M., died Monday at his home in Las Cruces.

Coming to Dona Ana county over 40 years ago, Mr. Cox had been one of the leading citizens of his state since his arrival, his ranch one of the largest in southern New Mexico, his ranch home one of the most hospitable in the state.

Prominent in Republican politics, personal friend of A. B. Fall, late secretary of the interior, Mr. Cox was active in the affairs of his state during his residence in New Mexico and he served for a long time as treasurer of the county of Dona Ana.

During the oil excitement in this section of the country in 1919, Mr. Cox formed a company for drilling for oil on his ranch east of the Organ mountains 4 1/2 miles north of El Paso and great sums were spent, but quicksand and other difficulties prevented completion of the well. Mr. Cox died believing in the existence of oil beneath his lands, however. Management of the oil company was never criticized. That he gave the stockholders "a square deal" everyone admitted.

### Losses a Fortune.

Mr. Cox lost a large amount of money in the well himself. This and the failure of the Bowman bank at Las Cruces, of which he was president and in which he was a heavy stockholder, hurt him severely in a financial way, at a time in life when he felt it severely. Coupled with these two financial reverses came the drouth and heavy losses in cattle and the necessity for moving most of his stock into Mexico. These things, along with advancing years, broke the health of the one time stalwart cowman and hastened his death, friends believe.

The Cox ranch, San Augustin, named for the famous pass between the Organ and the San Andreas mountains, is one of the best known ranches of the southwest. Springs near the ranch house are surrounded by a beautiful grove of hackberry and other mountain vegetation and they form a delightful picnic spot. Many an El Pasoan has enjoyed a Sunday there and a number of years ago several motorcades were run from El Paso to the Cox ranch by the El Paso Automobile Club.

### Game Preserve On Ranch.

Part of the Organ mountains stand on the San Augustin ranch and many El Paso hunters have enjoyed a camping trip in the foothills of the Organ as a guest of W. W. Cox until three years ago, when he turned his ranch into a game preserve for the state of New Mexico. Quail, deer and other game are now under the protection of the state game warden on the Cox ranch.

Funeral services are being conducted at Las Cruces this afternoon. T. M. Wingo, El Paso banker, long a friend of the deceased, will be one of the pallbearers. He and Mrs. Wingo went up from El Paso at noon Tuesday.

Honorary and active pallbearers were chosen from the friends of Mr. Cox, many of whom have known him since he came to the southwest. Honorary pallbearers were, Frank French, Dr. B. E. Lane, C. T. Seale, George Frenger, R. L. Young and Felipe Lucero. Active pallbearers were, Jeff Isaacks, H. B. Holt, Dr. G. L. Hill, Frank Campbell, Dr. R. E. McBride and T. M. Wingo. Mr. Wingo is vice president of the City National bank of El Paso.

Music for the services was rendered by the Methodist choir, composed of Mrs. Homer Rivers, Jane Talbot and A. R. and W. J. Stevens.

"No cattleman in the southwest was better known than W. W. Cox," declared Mr. Wingo. "He has been identified with the ranching life of the southwest as long as almost any living man in this section, and his friends were legion and loyal, for he was a good man. He had been prominent in the state and had held many appointive offices as a member of various state boards, including the cattle sanitary board."

### Born In Texas.

Mr. Cox, a native of Texas, went to California with his parents when a mere boy, but did not remain there for long. Returning to DeWitt county, his birthplace, he remained only a short time, then came west, first locating in the Big Bend country of Texas, then going to Grant county, in the vicinity of Silver City, then to Dona Ana county, some 40 years ago.

Deceased was the father of eight children, Mrs. Charles Lee, wife of the postmaster at Las Cruces; Mrs. J. E. Stabile, wife of a Las Cruces business man; Mrs. Frenger, of Pittsburg, Pa.; Hall R. Cox, James Cox, A. B. Cox, Miss Bonnie Cox and Miss Lou Cox, the latter two daughters being his youngest children.

Hal Cox is manager of the Cox ranch.